

Friis, John

From: yvette brackman [yvette.brackman@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 4:54 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

Support for HB6666 Section 5 = Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA

Dear John Friis,

I have been informed that The Educational Center for the Arts is at risk of being closed down by the state. How could such a consideration even be on the table?! ECA was an essential part of my public school education in New Haven. Without ECA I dare not think about where I would be today. I now live in Copenhagen Denmark where I have been at Professor of Art at The Royal Danish Art Academy for many years. The foundation and support the teachers at ECA offered students was immeasurably important for so many students who managed to survive the New Haven public school system. ECA's creative environment has fostered so many talented and successful people in the arts. If you only count the years 1982-84 when I attended the ECA, you can find so many students who went on to have important career in the arts.

The rest of my public school experience was something to survive and if you were lucky maybe there would be one teacher who took pity on you and gave you some attention but the system was so overextended that one could not hope to have anything resembling at art class at Wilbur Cross. I remember the two days that I spent in an art class at Wilbur Cross and I won't begin to tell you how bereft of creativity and engagement that experience was.

Ann Bresnik, the head of the sculpture department at ECA at the time, was so important for my artistic development. She engaged us who otherwise would be in the streets bored and looking for whatever could distract and engage us. There was very little excite and stimulate students in the public school system otherwise. One couldn't wait til it was time to go to ECA. It was a place where one could come be heard, be seen and have ones creativity encouraged, aknowledged, understood and guided.

How you could even consider closing down such a educational goldmine is beyond me. I believe that Barak Obama would agree.

With serious regard.

Yvette Brackman
Professor of Art

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